



**All learning together**

**Langton Primary School**  
**Religious Education Policy**

Adopted by: Full Governing Body

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## Introduction

Langton Primary School, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the school. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum. Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the same high standards are applied to the teaching and learning of it as to all other subjects. Religious Education in North Yorkshire is supported by SACRE (The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) and the School Improvement Service.

A new Agreed Syllabus has been introduced that commenced in September 2019. This syllabus will run until 2024. The implementation of this new Agreed Syllabus is underway and we, as a school, have acted accordingly to ensure that the new syllabus is carried out and taught in line with local authority advice.

## Our Intent

Our principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in the enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address. Through their work in RE children explore, analyse and reflect on a range of religious and non-religious responses to these questions of meaning and purpose.

## Aims and Purpose

The new Agreed Syllabus has three main aims –

1. To know about and understand a range of religions and world views.

2. To be able to express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and world views.

3. To gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews.

At Langton Primary School we aim to achieve this by providing opportunities for children to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- explore issues within and between faiths to help their understanding of different religions, beliefs, values and traditions
- consider questions of meaning and purpose in life and different responses to these
- learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to begin to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues
- respond to what they are learning, drawing on their own experience and previous learning in RE and other areas of the curriculum
- develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society
- develop enquiry and response skills through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy
- reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses

### Programme of Study

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each key stage the school uses the North Yorkshire units of learning for RE which builds-in coverage of and progression in both the content and concepts outlined in the Agreed Syllabus. The teaching of RE in our school is structured into the following three strands -

1. Believing – Religious beliefs, teachings, sources; questions of meaning and truth.

2. Expressing – Religious forms of expression; questions of identity, diversity and belonging.

3. Living – Practices and ways of living; questions of values and commitments.

The children study 4-6 units per academic year ensuring that there is a minimum of one unit taken from each strand. These units are planned to enable children in each Key Stage to work together on a shared topic but at a level and in ways, which are appropriate to their age and ability. In K.S.1, children develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and one other world religion. In K.S.2 children develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and at least two other world

religions. In the E.Y.F.S. Stage children are made aware that more than one faith tradition exists. The full programme builds progressively on children's learning and experience and enables the school to meet fully the statutory requirements of the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus

.Approximately 5% of curriculum time is given to RE i.e. average of one hour per week although this time may be aggregated into a block of time within a term.

## Teaching and Learning

At Langton Primary School we believe that Religious Education is an exciting, stimulating subject, which will be taught in a way that engages pupils in a variety of activities appropriate to their age, ability and previous experience.

Wherever possible the children will have the opportunity to learn through exploring and experiencing:-

- places of worship
- meeting and talking to visitors
- handling religious artefacts, paintings and writings
- research, including use of video, CD-ROM and the Internet
- class teaching/individual work/work in groups

The children will be given the opportunity to reflect on religion through:-

- exploring and expressing personal values
- evaluating their experiences and discoveries
- expressing their ideas with confidence and sensitivity
- developing appropriate responses when encountering other people's beliefs
- reflecting on their own progress in this area

The children will be encouraged to record their learning and experiences through:-

- drama/mime/role play
- dance/music
- art/technology
- written and oral work
- presentation and displays of work.

## Learning across the Curriculum

RE makes a very important contribution to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

RE also contributes to children's personal and social development and their learning in health education and citizenship

RE has a valuable contribution to make to the development of key skills especially:

- Communication
- Working with others
- Information technology
- Problem solving
- Improving own learning and performance

#### Other key aspects of the whole curriculum which RE supports are:

- Thinking skills – learning about and learning from religions includes skills of research, selection, analysis, interpretation, reflection, empathy, synthesis and application of a range of beliefs and values to practical issues.
- Financial capability- exploring issues of value, basic human rights, responsibility for caring for others, the role of the voluntary organisations and giving to charity
- Enterprise education – analysing the beliefs and values which lie behind individual and community actions on behalf of self or others
- Creative thinking skills –reflecting on questions of personal fulfillment, and sources of inspiration and discovery. Making connections between beliefs, values and the creative arts.
- Education for sustainable development – exploration and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs about the origin and value of life; the impact of these on how human beings understand the significance of the world and of themselves; how this is shown in the ways individuals and communities treat each other and the environment and use the world's resources.

### Assessment

At Langton Primary School assessment is carried out on a regular basis through discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions. Teachers use their own judgements to constantly assess each child against the objectives set out in each unit.

### Provision for RE is in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

In accordance with the aims of the school the pupils will develop an appreciation of, and respect for, the beliefs and philosophies of others. Pupils will be encouraged to value the rich variety of cultural traditions and lifestyles represented in Great Britain. It is acknowledged and respected that deep beliefs are held in the area of Religious Education. It is therefore our aim to deal with any matters arising as sensitively as possible.

Provision for children with special educational needs, including more able children will follow the school's policies in these areas. Children's needs are carefully monitored and supported through teacher planning and assessment. This enables objectives, tasks, teaching methods, resources and teacher/adult input to be matched to pupil needs. It includes the use of more challenging objectives or extension materials and tasks for the more able

## Resources

The pupils of Langton Primary School will have access to a range of resources including:-

- visitors to school
- published materials
- visual and audio materials
- computers
- religious artefacts

## Role of the subject leader

At Langton Primary School the RE subject leader provides support and advice to other members of staff, monitors quality of teaching and is responsible for evaluating and reviewing the long and medium term planning and provision for RE across the school. The subject leader will also attend any training and subject meetings and then provide updates to staff to extend their knowledge and expertise in RE.

## Legal background

The school is required by law to teach RE to all pupils registered at the school. The RE programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in this country are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The RE programme meets the requirements of the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus.

## Parental rights to withdraw children from RE

Parents at Langton Primary School have the right to withdraw their children from the RE programme. Where parents have concerns about their children taking part in RE, they are asked to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher who will be able to discuss the RE programme and teaching methods in greater detail and give parents access to the RE unit materials and resources used. Agreement on alternative provision for the children would need to be reached should a child be withdrawn from the RE programme.